

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
Dobbs Decision Anniversary Floor Remarks
June 21, 2023

Madam President, reserving the right to object.

Madam President, this bill presents a solution in search of a problem. Unfortunately, it appears that the intent of this legislation is to treat abortion as health care, to prevent pro-life entities from sponsoring ads designed to help provide women and girls with trustworthy support during pregnancy, and to make it harder for States to enforce their own laws protecting life and the most vulnerable.

When it comes to ensuring patient privacy in health care, I believe there are bipartisan solutions to be found that we all agree on. One-sided efforts to promote abortion are not the way for us to find common ground on this issue. I would also like to point out this bill has not received a hearing or markup in the Commerce Committee, which would be a great opportunity to have.

Madam President, I would like to turn now to recognize that this Saturday will mark the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. I am incredibly proud that this victory for the pro-life movement, reversing the moral stain of *Roe v. Wade*, came out of my State of Mississippi.

I am amazed and grateful that in God's sovereign plan, a law introduced by my friend, Mississippi state Representative Becky Currie, ultimately achieved what I and so many others have prayed for for 50 years, to restore the sanctity of life.

My friend, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, our state's Solicitor General Scott Stuart, and the many others in the AG's office worked tirelessly to represent our state direct challenge to *Roe*.

After a draft of the *Dobbs* majority opinion was shamefully leaked, the conservative justices resisted disgraceful intimidation tactics and threats to their lives. They stayed true to their judicial oaths to uphold and defend the Constitution.

The Supreme Court recognized correctly in *Dobbs* that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, and that *Roe* was "egregiously wrong and on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided."

While the *Dobbs* decision did not end abortion in America, it took a monumental step in returning the issue back into the hands of the people and their elected representatives.

Today, as a result, 14 States are protecting unborn children through all nine months pregnancy, and several others now protect babies at the point where they have a heartbeat at six weeks, still others at 12 weeks. One recent study found there were more than 24,000 unborn children saved from abortion in the first nine months since *Dobbs*. That's 24,000 miracles—because that's what a child is—a miracle.

But it's not just the States that can protect life after *Dobbs*. We in Congress also have responsibility to protect life and stop the Democrats' extreme pro-abortion agenda.

It saddens me deeply that Democrats in Congress continue to advocate for appalling legislation that would impose legalized abortion on demand up until the moment of birth across all 50 states.

Their legislation is even more radical than *Roe* was, and would eliminate even the most modest pro-life protections, like parental involvement laws and bans on sex-selective abortions.

Democrats cannot name a single limit on abortion they support. Not one.

The American people, however, reject this extreme position. A new Tarrance Group poll this month found three fourths of voters oppose allowing abortion through all nine months of pregnancy and support at least some limits to abortion.

More Americans continue to reject abortion when they learn more about the child in the womb: when they can hear the child's heartbeat, when they can see them suck their thumbs and yawn on the ultrasound, when they learn that they *can* feel pain.

Despite this, the Biden Administration's FDA and the Department of Justice continues to allow the abortion industry to obstruct the will of pro-life States by illegally flooding the mail with do-it-yourself abortion pills, turning post offices into abortion centers.

These actions not only endanger women's health but they violate longstanding Federal laws that clearly prohibit the mailing of abortion drugs.

Finally, we must also must advance policies to support pregnant mothers in choosing life.

In particular, we need to support the work of pregnancy centers. More than 2,700 pregnancy centers across the country provide critical medical and material support for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies to choose life rather than abortion.

This is the promise of the Declaration of Independence: that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the inalienable right to life. Thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs* one year ago this week, we can finally begin the hard work to make good on that promise for unborn Americans too.

Finally, I object.